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The CIA job hunt

How is the CIA holding up among students today? Pretty well. This year, the CIA attracted over 150,000 applications on campus.

"The kids who are coming in today want to serve their country," says CIA deputy director for employment John H. Dohring. "They are very positive, pragmatic, very patriotic. We hire from every conceivable field and we want the best and the brightest."

Starting salaries range from \$17,000 for a college grad with no special qualifications to \$30,000 and up for engineering doctorates.

"We were devastated in the late '60s and early '70s," Dohring explains. "That may be too strong a word, but we took a pretty bad rap back then and our ranks were shrunk."

All that has changed. During the past year, the CIA sent recruiters to 400 colleges—and had to turn down requests from hundreds of others.

"We were highly, highly successful wherever we went," says Pat Volz, public affairs officer for the agency. Actual hiring figures are classified.

"It's all quiet on the western front," says Dr. Lawrence H. Smith, career placement director at the University of Oregon. "In the last four years, there have been only two minor demonstrations when CIA recruiters came on campus."

"Any attempt to disrupt their recruitment activities would incur the wrath of the majority of students," says Professor James Marks, director of engineering placement at the University of Wisconsin. "Our students are interested in jobs."

The competition is stiff. "It's amazing the number of universities which have grads here," says Dohring. "No one college stands out, but we have them from Yale, Harvard, Georgetown—from all over."